

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0091] with the following amended paragraph:

[0091] From aggregated forecast 406 illustrated in the example of Fig. 4A, chart 408 of Fig. 4B may be ascertained to allow the forwarder to ascertain the right mix of long-term contracts, futures, options, and spot market purchases that would most likely fulfill the shipping needs forecasted by the shippers. In chart 408, line 410a represents the volume of shipping to be filled by long-term contracts; line 410b represents the volume of shipping to be filled by futures; line 410c represents the volume of shipping to be filled by options. Line 412a and line 412b represent respectively the upper and lower boundaries of the band of uncertainty, while line 414 represents the forecasted volume.